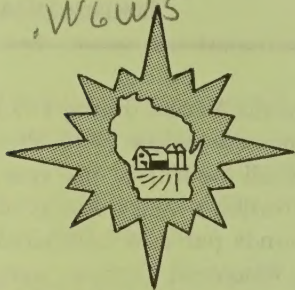


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WISCONSIN

Farm Reporter

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January 1974

Cream of the News

The preliminary estimate of Wisconsin's milk production for 1973 shows a decline of 4 percent from the record production in 1972 but nearly equal to the 1971 output.

Wholesale prices of Swiss and cheddar cheese at Wisconsin assembly points continued to increase during December.

Based on the January Prospective Plantings survey, farmers in Wisconsin and the Nation plan to increase corn acreage 10 percent in 1974.

The prices received index in Wisconsin for mid-December was up from a month earlier as higher prices for milk and grains offset declines for meat animals.

Cheese production in the Nation during November was up 8 percent from the previous year but butter production was down 18 percent.

The number of farms in Wisconsin as of January 1, 1974 was estimated at 105,000, a decline of 1,000 from a year earlier and the same rate of decline as in 1972 and 1973.

Prices received by Wisconsin farmers for all milk sold in December are expected to average a record high of \$8.46 a hundredweight.

The 1973 crop production index was down 6 points from 1972 due to a reduction in the output of most field crops, processing vegetables, and fruits.

Stocks of meat and cheese in cold storage in the Nation at the end of 1973 were up from a year earlier but butter stocks were down sharply.

The number of cattle on feed in Wisconsin and the Nation on January 1, 1974 was down from that date in 1973 as was the number of sheep and lambs on feed.

Red meat production in Wisconsin during November was 8 percent more than the previous year as both beef and pork output was higher.

MILK PRICES CONTINUE HIGHER

Prices received by Wisconsin farmers for all milk of average test sold in December are expected to average a record high of \$8.46 a hundredweight. This would be 22 cents above November and \$2.47 more than December 1972.

The November milk price of \$8.24 a hundredweight was up 25 cents from October and \$2.32 higher than a year earlier. Milkfat content averaged 3.86 percent in November, the same as November 1972.

Grade A milk producers received an average of \$8.35 a hundredweight for November, a gain of 22 cents from October and \$2.30 above the previous year. Manufacturing grade milk, at \$8.07 a hundredweight for November, was 28 cents more than a month earlier and \$2.33 higher than November 1972. The price spread between market and manufacturing grade milk was 28 cents in November compared with 31 cents for that month in 1972.

A preliminary average of the monthly prices shows that Wisconsin farmers received \$6.77 a hundredweight for all milk sold in 1973. This was \$1.23 above the 1972 average and the tenth consecutive year that the annual milk price exceeded the previous year.

Milk Prices 1/

Selected States	October 1973		November price per cwt.			Dec. 1973 price per cwt. 2/
	Average test	Price per cwt.	1972	1973	73/72 change	
	Percent	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Percent	Dollars
Milk for all uses						
Wisconsin	3.81	7.99	5.92	8.24	+ 39	8.46
Minnesota	3.71	7.61	5.56	7.83	+ 41	7.92
Iowa	3.72	7.72	5.82	8.05	+ 38	8.20
New York	3.66	8.75	7.08	8.90	+ 26	8.80
California	3.62	7.15	5.81	7.80	+ 34	8.00
United States	3.72	8.29	6.52	8.63	+ 32	8.78
Wisconsin utilization						
Market milk	3.81	8.13	6.05	8.35	+ 38	XXX
Manufacturing milk	3.82	7.79	5.74	8.07	+ 41	XXX
Creameries	3.82	7.65	5.74	7.85	+ 37	XXX
Cheese factories ..	3.82	7.80	5.75	8.10	+ 41	XXX
Varied prod. plants	3.81	7.78	5.67	7.95	+ 40	XXX

1/Preliminary average buying prices received for milk of average test. They differ from basic buying prices which are for 3.5% milk. 2/Based on preliminary information for milk of average test.

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WISCONSIN STATISTICAL REPORTING SERVICE

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Wisconsin 3.5 Test Milk Prices 1/

Utilization	Nov. 1972	Oct. 1973	Nov. 1973 2/	Change from last year
	Dollars per cwt.			Percent
Milk for all uses	5.39	7.34	7.47	+ 39
Market milk	5.49	7.47	7.55	+ 38
Manufacturing milk	5.23	7.14	7.34	+ 40
Creameries	5.08	7.01	7.14	+ 41
American cheese plants	5.25	7.14	7.38	+ 41
Varied products plants	5.11	7.15	7.25	+ 42
Federal Order Markets				
Chicago Regional Base Zone	5.87	7.62	7.98	+ 36

1/Computed equivalents. 2/Preliminary.

1973 MILK PRODUCTION DECLINES 4 PERCENT

The preliminary estimate of Wisconsin's milk production for 1973 was 18,776 million pounds, a decline of 4 percent from the record production in 1972 but nearly equal to the output in 1971. Wisconsin's 1973 milk production accounted for 16 percent of the Nation's total.

Monthly milk production in 1973 was below 1972 in all months except January. Output per cow averaged 10,360 pounds for 1973, down 3 percent from 1972 and the first decline in annual production per cow since 1952. Milk cows on farms also were less in 1973 than a year earlier.

Milk production in Wisconsin during December totaled 1,402 million pounds, down 5 percent from November. Production increased seasonally 6 percent from November to December, slightly less than the gain for those months in 1972. Output per cow in December averaged 780 pounds, a decline of 30 pounds from the previous year.

The Nation's milk production in December was 9,100 million pounds, down 3 percent from a year earlier. Prelimi-

Milk Production

Selected States	December 1972	December 1973	Jan.-Dec. 1973	Change from last year	
				Dec.	Jan.-Dec.
	Million pounds			Percent	
Wisconsin	1,483	1,402	18,776	- 5	- 4
Minnesota	755	772	9,473	+ 2	- 1
Iowa	344	326	4,375	- 5	- 3
New York	777	757	9,625	- 3	- 6
Pennsylvania . .	563	545	6,707	- 3	- 5
California	836	819	10,461	- 2	n. c.
Other states . . .	4,643	4,479	57,385	- 4	- 3
United States . .	9,401	9,100	116,802	- 3	- 3

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nary estimates of milk production in the Nation during 1973 totaled 116,802 million pounds, 3 percent below 1972. Production in 1973 was under 1972 in all months of the year. Grain and concentrates fed to the Nation's milk cows as of January 1, 1974 averaged 13.1 pounds per cow compared with 13.5 pounds a year earlier. Wisconsin farmers were feeding an average of 12.4 pounds of grain and other concentrates per cow on January 1, down from 13.1 pounds on that date in 1973.

CHEESE PRODUCTION HIGHER BUT BUTTER OUTPUT DOWN

Production of cheese in the Nation during November was 8 percent above a year earlier but butter production was down 18 percent. American cheese production in November was 12 percent more than the previous year and Italian cheese increased 13 percent. Output of Swiss cheese for November was 28 percent under November 1972. Production of Brick and Muenster declined 1 percent from November 1972 but all other cheese had a gain of 1 percent.

Wisconsin's American cheese production in November was up 7 percent from a year earlier and Minnesota showed an increase of 47 percent. Missouri produced 7 percent less American cheese in November than the previous year but other states were up 7 percent.

Butter production in Wisconsin and Minnesota during November was down 3 percent from November 1972. Iowa creameries had a sharp drop of 60 percent in butter output

Current Dairy Products Estimates

Item and area	Nov. 1972	Nov. 1973	Jan.-Nov. 1973	Change from last year	
				Nov.	Jan.-Nov.
	1,000 pounds			Percent	
BUTTER					
Wisconsin	12,622	12,200	166,930	- 3	- 10
Minnesota	15,059	14,560	203,480	- 3	- 17
Iowa	5,246	2,100	56,640	- 60	- 29
Other states	40,526	31,582	427,839	- 22	- 16
United States	73,453	60,442	854,889	- 18	- 16
CHEESE, AMERICAN					
Wisconsin	48,527	52,100	673,150	+ 7	- 1
Minnesota	14,955	22,000	217,160	+ 47	+ 25
Missouri	5,063	4,700	68,450	- 7	- 21
Other states	39,349	42,135	566,100	+ 7	- 3
United States	107,894	120,935	1,524,860	+ 12	n. c.
CHEESE, MISCELLANEOUS					
United States					
Swiss	13,951	10,031	154,248	- 28	- 5
Brick and Muenster . .	5,576	5,546	61,945	- 1	n. c.
Italian	39,453	44,488	499,187	+ 13	+ 6
All other	19,373	19,480	182,491	+ 1	+ 7
Total	78,353	79,545	897,871	+ 2	+ 3
ALL CHEESE					
United States	186,247	200,480	242,731	+ 8	+ 1
OTHER PRODUCTS					
Cottage Cheese					
United States					
Curd 1/	60,626	55,175	714,849	- 9	- 2
Creamed 2/	77,110	70,062	912,969	- 9	- 3
	1,000 gallons			Percent	
Ice Cream					
Wisconsin	1,351	1,400	15,830	+ 4	- 11
Illinois	2,958	3,140	41,800	+ 6	+ 7
Iowa	544	600	7,350	+ 10	+ 2
Michigan	2,272	2,560	33,125	+ 13	+ 5
Minnesota	2,308	2,490	28,450	+ 8	+ 2
Other states	44,032	45,689	608,132	+ 4	+ 2
United States	53,465	55,879	734,687	+ 5	+ 2

1/Includes cottage, pot, and bakers' cheese with a milkfat content of less than 4 percent. 2/Includes cheese with a milkfat content of 4 to 19 percent.

for November compared with a year earlier while other states were down 22 percent.

Cottage cheese production in the Nation for November was 9 percent below a year earlier but output of ice cream was up 5 percent.

WHOLESALE CHEESE PRICES CONTINUE UPWARD

Wholesale prices of Swiss and cheddar cheese at Wisconsin assembly points continued to increase during December. Swiss cheese, Wisconsin State Brand, averaged 98¾ cents a pound for December, a gain of 5¼ cents from November and nearly 23 cents higher than a year earlier.

Cheddar cheese in 40 pound blocks averaged 88¼ cents a pound in December, up almost 2 cents from the previous month and the tenth consecutive monthly increase for cheddar cheese prices. A year ago wholesale prices of cheddar cheese in 40 pound blocks averaged 63¾ cents a pound in December.

Wholesale prices of 92-score butter at the New York market declined from November to December. Butter prices averaged 74.36 cents a pound for December compared with 77.04 cents a month earlier and 71.47 cents in December 1972.

Wholesale Dairy Prices

Commodity	December 1972	November 1973	December 1973 1/
Butter, 92-score, New York, pound	71.47¢	77.04¢	74.36¢
Cheese, Cheddars, Wisconsin primary markets, 40 lb. blocks, pound 2/	63.75¢	86.33¢	88.25¢
Cheese, Swiss, Wisconsin State Brand block pound 2/	76.00¢	93.50¢	98.75¢
Evaporated milk, North Central States, case, 48-14½ oz. cans, range	\$8.10-9.16	\$10.65-10.98	\$ — — —
Nonfat dry milk solids, spray, Chicago area, pound	37.36¢	51.04¢	52.03¢

1/Preliminary estimates. 2/Selling prices, f.o.b. at Wisconsin assembly points.

BUTTER PRODUCTION REMAINS LOWER BUT AMERICAN CHEESE OUTPUT HIGHER

Weekly estimates of butter production in the Nation during December indicate that churnings will remain well below a year earlier. Butter production for December is expected to be 19 percent under last year, almost the same decline as shown in November and slightly more than the 16 percent reduction for January through November. Churnings of butter in Wisconsin creameries during December were a little above a year ago after declining 3 percent in November. The State's butter production during January through November

Recent Changes in Butter and Cheese Output

Periods	Butter			American cheese		
	United States		Wisconsin	United States		Wisconsin
	Production 1973	Change from last year	Change from last year	Production 1973	Change from last year	Change from last year
	1,000 lbs.	Percent	Percent	1,000 lbs.	Percent	Percent
November . . .	60,442	- 18	- 3	120,935	+ 12	+ 7
Jan.-Nov. . . .	854,889	- 16	- 10	1,524,860	n. c.	- 1
Weeks ending						
Dec. 6	14,700	- 18	+ 1	28,850	+ 16	+ 12
Dec. 13	14,250	- 18	+ 6	28,650	+ 13	+ 3
Dec. 20	14,400	- 18	+ 1	30,400	+ 15	+ 5
Dec. 27	15,800	- 22	- 6	34,200	+ 16	+ 9
Total	59,150	- 19	XXX	122,100	+ 15	XXX

ber was down 10 percent from those months in 1972.

According to weekly estimates, production of American cheese in the Nation during December could be 15 percent more than a year earlier. November's output was up 12 percent from last year but production from January through November was the same as the corresponding period of 1972. Wisconsin's American cheese production in December will also be above a year ago after showing a 7 percent increase in November but a 1 percent drop from January through November.

CHEESE STOCKS UP FROM YEAR EARLIER

Cold storage stocks of cheese in the Nation at the end of 1973 were 8 percent higher than a year earlier. Supplies of American cheese in cold storage on December 31 were up 7 percent. Swiss cheese stocks were two-thirds greater than on December 31, 1972 but stocks of all other cheese showed little change.

The Nation's stocks of butter in cold storage at the end of 1973 were 59 percent under a year ago. Government stocks of butter on December 31 were only a fourth of the total held at the end of 1972.

Cold Storage Stocks of Butter and Cheese

Commodity	Dec. 31, 1971	Dec. 31, 1972	Dec. 31, 1973	Change from last year
	1,000 pounds			Percent
	UNITED STATES			
Butter	96,847	107,470	44,465	- 59
Cheese, American	238,900	269,438	289,271	+ 7
Cheese, Swiss	7,783	8,122	13,561	+ 67
Cheese, all other	57,585	53,884	53,867	n. c.
Cheese, total	304,268	331,444	356,699	+ 8
	WISCONSIN			
Butter	4,497	4,111	1,319	- 68
Cheese, American	133,852	176,795	168,802	- 5
	GOVERNMENT STOCKS*			
Butter	70,685	96,393	23,909	- 75
Cheese, American	3,259	183	490	+ 168

*Included in above totals.

Manufacturers' Stocks of Other Dairy Products
United States

Commodity	Nov. 30, 1971	Nov. 30, 1972	Nov. 30, 1973	Change from last year
	1,000 pounds			Percent
Dried whole milk	5,293	4,695	7,041	+ 50
Dried skim milk	86,194	35,660	65,120	+ 83
Dried buttermilk	2,144	2,521	3,866	+ 53
Condensed milk and evaporated milk (case goods) 1/	111,729	104,065	75,241	- 28

1/Combined to avoid disclosing individual plant operations.

PRICES RECEIVED INDEX UP AS MILK AND GRAIN PRICES HIGHER

Increases in milk and grain prices offset declines for meat animals and resulted in a 3 point gain for the prices received index from November to December. At 544 percent of the 1910-14 base, the index of prices received for all farm products sold in Wisconsin during the period ending in mid-December was 35 percent above a year earlier.

Beef cattle prices continued a downward trend. Steers and heifers averaged \$34.40 a hundredweight as of December 15, a decline of \$2.20 from the previous month and just 20 cents above a year earlier. Slaughter cows averaged \$29.30 a hundredweight in December, down 90 cents from November but \$3.60 more than December 1972.

Hogs averaged \$37.60 a hundredweight as of mid-December, a decline of \$2.20 from a month earlier but still \$9.10 higher than a year ago.

Sheep declined 50 cents from November to December but at \$10.00 a hundredweight were up \$3.70 from the previous year. Lambs countered the trend of lower livestock prices by increasing \$2.90 from November to December. At \$31.50 a hundredweight on December 15, lambs were \$4.80 above a year earlier. The mid-December wool price of 58 cents a pound was 5 cents higher than November and 24 cents greater than December 1972.

Calves averaged \$50.70 a hundredweight in December, a sharp decline of \$5.70 from the previous month but \$3.50 above a year ago.

Prices Received by Wisconsin Farmers

Commodity	Unit	Dec. 15, 1971	Dec. 15, 1972	Nov. 15, 1973	Dec. 15, 1973
Dollars					
Milk cows	Head	415.00	485.00	615.00	615.00
Steers and heifers ..	Cwt.	29.50	34.20	36.60	34.40
Cows	Cwt.	20.60	25.70	30.20	29.30
Calves	Cwt.	41.30	47.20	56.40	50.70
Hogs	Cwt.	19.80	28.50	39.80	37.60
Sheep	Cwt.	5.30	6.30	10.50	10.00
Lambs	Cwt.	24.00	26.70	28.60	31.50
Wool	Lb.	.20	.34	.53	.58
Chickens 1/	Lb.	.070	.095	.215	.195
Turkeys	Lb.	.230	.240	.370	.370
Eggs	Doz.	.320	.390	.580	.610
Corn	Bu.	1.10	1.30	2.13	2.43
Wheat	Bu.	1.42	2.01	4.12	4.66
Oats	Bu.	.70	.86	1.20	1.34
Soybeans	Bu.	2.93	3.70	5.04	5.58
Alfalfa hay, baled ..	Ton	21.50	33.00	30.50	30.50

1/Excludes broilers.

Eggs increased 3 cents a dozen from November to December. At 61 cents a dozen for mid-December, eggs were 22 cents more than a year ago and the highest for that date since 1920. Turkeys remained at 37 cents a pound liveweight from November to December but were 13 cents above the previous year.

Corn prices reached a record high of \$2.43 a bushel in mid-December, up 30 cents from November and \$1.13 greater than a year earlier. Oats also achieved a record high of \$1.34 a bushel in December, an increase of 14 cents from the previous month and 48 cents above December 1972. Wheat prices rose 54 cents from November to December and the mid-December record price of \$4.66 a bushel was \$2.65 higher than a year ago.

Soybeans averaged \$5.58 a bushel as of December 15, up 54 cents from November and \$1.88 more than December 1972. Baled alfalfa hay averaged \$30.50 a ton in December, the same as a month earlier but \$2.50 under a year ago.

FARM NUMBERS

CONTINUE DOWNWARD

The number of farms in Wisconsin as of January 1, 1974 was estimated at 105,000. This was a decline of 1,000 farms

from a year earlier, the same rate of decline as in 1972 and 1973. Farm numbers have not been decreasing as rapidly in the 1970's as they did in the 1960's when the annual drop was usually 3,000 farms.

Land in farms totaled 19.6 million acres on January 1 this year, a decline of 100,000 acres from a year ago. The land in farms has also been dropping at a slower rate in recent years. More than four million acres has gone out of farm land since 1942 when a high of almost 24 million acres was in farm land in Wisconsin. During the past 10 years, farm land has decreased by 9 percent while the number of farms was reduced by 17 percent.

As farm numbers declined, the average size of a Wisconsin farm increased from a low of 113 acres in 1925 to a high of 187 acres by 1974. Farm size has gained an average of 17 acres in the last 10 years.

Number of Farms and Land in Farms Wisconsin and United States 1935-74 1/

Year	Wisconsin			United States 2/		
	No. of farms	Average size	Land in farms	No. of farms	Average size	Land in farms
	Thous.	Acres	Mil. acres	Thous.	Acres	Mil. acres
1935	200	118	23.5	6,812	155	1,054.5
1940	193	119	22.9	6,097	174	1,060.9
1945	179	132	23.6	5,859	195	1,141.6
1950	174	136	23.6	5,648	213	1,202.0
1955	155	150	23.2	4,654	258	1,201.9
1960	138	161	22.2	3,963	297	1,175.6
1961	136	163	22.1	3,825	305	1,167.7
1962	133	165	22.0	3,692	314	1,159.4
1963	130	168	21.8	3,572	322	1,151.6
1964	127	170	21.6	3,457	332	1,146.1
1965	124	173	21.4	3,356	340	1,139.6
1966	121	175	21.2	3,257	348	1,131.8
1967	118	177	20.9	3,162	355	1,123.5
1968	115	179	20.6	3,071	363	1,115.2
1969	112	181	20.3	2,999	369	1,107.7
1970	110	183	20.1	2,954	373	1,102.8
1971	108	184	19.9	2,909	377	1,097.3
1972	107	185	19.8	2,870	381	1,093.0
1973	106	186	19.7	2,844	383	1,089.5
1974 3/	105	187	19.6	2,821	385	1,086.9

1/Including Alaska and Hawaii. 2/Data prior to 1950 are from U. S. Agricultural Census. 3/Preliminary.

CROP PRODUCTION LOWER IN 1973

The crop production index for 1973 averaged 117 percent of the 1957-59 period, a decline of 6 points from 1972 and 18 points under the record high 1971 index. A reduction in the output of most field crops, processing vegetables, and fruits was responsible for the decline in the 1973 crop production index.

Widespread planting dates and an uneven moisture distribution characterized the 1973 crop season in Wisconsin. A very wet spring prolonged planting of crops and a dry summer reduced yields. Excellent fall weather allowed harvesting to progress rapidly in contrast to the extremely difficult harvest in 1972. Farmers were also able to complete more fall plowing in 1973 than in many years.

Corn production in 1973 was down 15 percent from 1972. Harvested acreage for grain declined by 53,000 and the yield of 83 bushels was 12 bushels under a year earlier. Wisconsin farmers produced a record soybean crop of 6 million bushels in 1973, up 48 percent from 1972. Although the soybean yield of 25 bushels was 3 bushels below the

record yield in 1972, acreage harvested increased by two-thirds.

Hay production in 1973 was 4 percent more than the previous year because of heavier first crop yields and an increase in acreage harvested. Yields of small grains were reduced in 1973 by late plantings and dry weather when heads were filling.

Tobacco production increased in 1973 despite a drop in acreage. Potato yields were down in 1973 but more acres were harvested and production nearly equaled 1972.

Poor pollination weather sharply reduced the 1973 apple and cherry crops. Cranberry production did not match the 1972 record crop. Dry weather hurt production of peas and sweet corn in 1973.

Crop Summary of Wisconsin for 1973

Crop	Acreage			Yield per acre			Unit	Production		
	1971	1972	1973	1971	1972	1973		1971	1972	1973
	Thousands							Thousands		
FIELD CROPS										
Corn for grain	2,304	2,143	2,090	98.0	95.0	83.0	Bu.	225,792	203,585	173,470
Oats	1,535	1,350	1,370	62.0	55.0	41.0	Bu.	95,170	74,250	56,170
Barley	28	22	21	55.0	45.0	37.0	Bu.	1,540	990	777
Rye	12	10	9	24.0	21.0	19.5	Bu.	288	210	176
Wheat (all)	35	29	27	37.5	31.1	33.0	Bu.	1,314	901	890
Winter	22	20	16	42.0	32.0	35.0	Bu.	924	640	560
Spring	13	9	11	30.0	29.0	30.0	Bu.	390	261	330
Soybeans for beans	128	145	241	23.5	28.0	25.0	Bu.	3,008	4,060	6,025
Potatoes (fall)	51.5	45.5	47.0	256	253	245	Cwt.	13,183	11,530	11,515
Tobacco (all)	10.6	10.8	10.2	2,125	1,731	1,924	Lb.	22,525	18,691	19,625
Type 54 (Southern)	5.3	5.0	4.9	2,270	1,685	1,950	Lb.	12,031	8,425	9,555
Type 55 (Northern)	5.3	5.8	5.3	1,980	1,770	1,900	Lb.	10,494	10,266	10,070
HAY AND FORAGE										
Hay (all)	3,987	3,920	3,950	2.78	2.60	2.69	Ton	11,083	10,203	10,622
Alfalfa and mixtures	3,017	2,950	2,970	2.95	2.85	2.90	Ton	8,900	8,408	8,613
All other	970	970	980	2.25	1.85	2.05	Ton	2,183	1,795	2,009
VEGETABLE CROPS										
Carrots 1/	2.8	2.3	4.5	425	410	411	Cwt.	1,190	943	1,851
Cabbage 1/	5.8	5.3	5.4	345	320	300	Cwt.	2,001	1,696	1,621
Lettuce	1.6	.9	1.1	220	210	250	Cwt.	352	189	275
Mint for oil	10.3	4.5	5.5	43	30	31	Cwt.	443	135	173
Onions, commercial 1/	1.6	1.5	1.4	235	250	280	Cwt.	376	375	392
For processing:										
Green lima beans	5.3	6.4	7.4	1.25	.82	.93	Ton 2/	6.7	5.3	6.9
Peas	125.1	122.2	123.2	1.17	1.34	.99	Ton 2/	146.4	163.8	122.0
Snap beans	50.1	45.5	55.7	2.59	2.67	2.47	Ton	129.8	121.5	137.6
Sweet corn	117.9	113.5	132.6	4.57	4.54	3.85	Ton	538.8	515.3	510.5
Cucumber for pickles	8.2	9.0	10.4	5.04	4.77	4.91	Ton	41.4	43.0	51.1
Beets for canning	5.8	4.5	6.6	11.66	14.00	9.18	Ton	67.7	63.0	60.6
FRUITS, ETC.										
Apples, commercial	—	—	—	—	—	—	Lb.	65,000	65,000	50,000
Tart cherries	—	—	—	—	—	—	Ton	8.4	4.6	2.4
Cranberries	—	—	—	—	—	—	Bbl.	742	805	760
Strawberries	1.5	1.4	1.4	29	23	27	Cwt.	44	32	38

1/Includes portion processed. 2/Shelled.

WISCONSIN FARMERS PLAN TO INCREASE ACREAGE OF MAJOR FIELD CROPS

Wisconsin farmers intend to increase plantings of all the major field crops surveyed except barley. The expected acreage of the five major crops to be planted this spring totals 5,334,000, an increase of 7 percent from the acreage planted to these crops in 1973.

Plantings of all field corn in Wisconsin for 1974 are expected to be 3,520,000 acres, 10 percent more than last year. If farmers follow these intentions, the 1974 corn acreage would be a record high.

Prospective plantings of soybeans indicate that 260,000 acres will be grown in Wisconsin in 1974, up 6 percent from the previous record acreage in 1973 and 100,000 acres greater than two years ago.

The 1974 oats crop is expected to total 1,520,000 acres based on the January intentions survey. If farmers carry out these intentions, the planted acreage of oats in 1974 would be 1 percent above 1973 and the first increase in oat acreage since 1961. Wisconsin had two consecutive poor oat crops in 1972 and 1973 so consequently supplies of oats and straw are very short.

Barley acreage for 1974 is expected to be 21,000, a decline of 1,000 acres from the previous year.

Seedings of spring wheat in 1974 may amount to 13,000 acres, up 1,000 acres from last year. Farmers in Wisconsin had good weather and field conditions in the fall of 1973 for planting winter wheat. The acreage seeded to winter wheat last fall totaled 57,000, more than three times the acreage sown in the fall of 1972 and the largest winter wheat plantings since 1938.

Farmers in the major producing states plan to increase the planted acreage of corn 10 percent in 1974. In the 35 states surveyed, farmers intend to plant almost 77½ million acres of corn for all purposes in 1974 — a record acreage. These states accounted for 98 percent of the Nation's corn acreage planted in 1973.

Soybean growers intend to plant nearly 55 million acres of beans for 1974 in the 27 states surveyed. If these intentions materialize, soybean acreage in 1974 would be down 3 percent from the record acreage planted in 1973. The states included in the January Prospective Plantings Survey accounted for 99 percent of the Nation's planted acreage of soybeans in 1973.

The 33 states surveyed for planting intentions of oats indicated a decrease of 1 percent from the 19.2 million acres planted in 1973. These states planted about 99 percent of the Nation's oat acreage in 1973.

Seedings of spring wheat in 1974 are expected to be up 14 percent from 1973 and 44 percent more than was sown in 1972. The 9 states included in the survey planted prac-

tically all of the Nation's spring wheat acreage in 1973.

Plantings of barley in 1974 could be down 15 percent from last year based on the January intentions survey. The three leading barley producing states — North Dakota, Montana, and California — all indicate substantial declines in plantings from the previous year.

Planted Acreage, Selected Crops, 1974 Intentions
Compared with 1972 and 1973 Planted Acreage, Wisconsin and United States

Crop	Wisconsin				United States			
	1972	1973	1974	Change from last year	1972	1973	1974	Change from last year
	1,000 acres			Percent	1,000 acres			Percent
Field corn	3,051	3,200	3,520	+ 10	66,972	71,611	77,440	+ 10
Oats 1/	1,570	1,500	1,520	+ 1	20,178	19,208	18,769	- 1
Soybeans 2/	160	246	260	+ 6	46,885	57,297	54,910	- 3
Barley 1/	24	22	21	- 5	10,639	11,335	9,281	- 15
Spring wheat	11	12	13	+ 8	10,138	12,811	14,551	+ 14

1/U. S. total includes acreage planted preceding fall. 2/Grown alone for all purposes.

MEAT STOCKS UP A FIFTH FROM A YEAR AGO

Stocks of meat in cold storage in the Nation at the end of 1973 were about a fifth higher than a year earlier. Pork stocks were up a third and beef in cold storage was 17 percent more than at the end of 1972.

There were nearly 431 million pounds of beef in cold storage on December 31, 1973, an increase of 39 million pounds from a month earlier and almost 64 million pounds above a year ago.

Cold storage supplies of pork at the end of December totaled over 284 million pounds, up 8 million pounds from the previous month and 70 million pounds more than a year earlier. Stocks of frozen pork bellies at the end of 1973 were 23 percent above a year ago.

Cold Storage Stocks of Meat
United States

Commodity	Dec. 31, 1971	Dec. 31, 1972	Nov. 30, 1973	Dec. 31, 1973	Change from last year
	1,000 pounds				Percent
Beef:					
Frozen	357,745	355,339	375,267	415,010	+ 17
In cure and cured	8,227	11,778	16,276	15,849	+ 35
Total	365,972	367,117	391,543	430,859	+ 17
Pork:					
Frozen	309,698	199,552	258,129	268,493	+ 35
In cooler	20,276	14,652	18,451	15,902	+ 9
Total	329,974	214,204	276,580	284,395	+ 33
Other meats and meat products:					
Veal, frozen	8,964	12,606	9,880	11,480	- 9
Lamb and mutton, frozen ..	19,260	15,704	14,737	14,154	- 10
Canned meats in cooler:					
Hams	52,862	44,833	61,797	53,526	+ 19
Other meats	18,721	15,838	14,048	14,976	- 5
Total, all meats	795,753	670,302	768,585	809,390	+ 21

RED MEAT OUTPUT HIGHER IN NOVEMBER

Production of red meat in Wisconsin's commercial slaughter plants during November was up 4 percent from October and 8 percent greater than November 1972. Output

of beef increased 9 percent from a year earlier and pork production gained 6 percent from November last year.

Cattle slaughter in Wisconsin during November totaled 107,000, up 10,000 from the previous year. Average liveweight of cattle slaughtered in November was 1,134 pounds, 12 pounds lighter than a year earlier.

The November hog kill of 286,000 was 4,000 under November 1972 but the average liveweight of 248 pounds was up 18 pounds.

Calf slaughter during November numbered 21,600, an increase of 2,200 from the previous year. Calves averaged 149 pounds liveweight, down 21 pounds from November 1972. The 500 sheep and lambs butchered in November was 100 more than a year earlier.

Commercial Livestock Slaughter

Area	Number			Liveweight	
	November		Change from last year	November	
	1972	1973		1972	1973
	1,000 head		Percent	Million pounds	
Cattle					
Wisconsin	97.0	107.0	+ 10	111.2	121.3
United States 1/ . . .	2,985.3	2,952.3	— 1	3,149.3	3,114.1
Calves					
Wisconsin	19.4	21.6	+ 11	3.3	3.2
United States 1/ . . .	252.8	207.4	— 18	61.5	49.4
Hogs					
Wisconsin	290.0	286.0	— 1	66.7	70.9
United States 1/ . . .	7,460.6	6,931.7	— 7	1,824.2	1,707.4
Sheep and lambs					
Wisconsin4	.5	+ 25	.037	.046
United States 1/ . . .	859.0	779.3	— 9	91.9	83.7

1/Excludes Alaska and Hawaii.

CATTLE AND CALVES ON FEED DOWN FROM YEAR AGO

Cattle feeders in Wisconsin had 136,000 cattle and calves on feed January 1, 1974, a decline of 5 percent from a year ago. Placements of cattle during the last quarter of 1973 amounted to 78,000, down 14 percent from that quarter in 1972. Marketings during the October-December quarter in 1973 totaled 55,000, an increase of 2 percent from a year earlier.

Wisconsin cattle feeders intend to market 54,000 finished cattle in the first quarter of 1974. These expected marketings would be 4 percent greater than the marketings for January-March 1973.

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in 50 states totaled 13,637,000 on January 1 this year, a decline of 6 percent from a year ago. The 23 major feeding states were also down 6 percent and accounted for about 96 percent of the total cattle and calves on feed January 1.

Cattle and Calves on Feed in the Nation
January 1, 1974 with Comparisons 1/ 2/

State	Jan. 1, 1972	Jan. 1, 1973	Oct. 1, 1973	Jan. 1, 1974	Change from last year
	1,000 head				Percent
Arizona	539	655	565	609	- 7
California	1,045	1,181	1,230	1,204	+ 2
Colorado	983	1,050	925	930	- 11
Idaho	265	205	160	172	- 16
Illinois	662	585	370	530	- 9
Indiana	327	276	196	263	- 5
Iowa	2,112	1,922	1,436	1,715	- 11
Kansas	1,100	1,250	1,190	1,160	- 7
Michigan	230	245	160	220	- 10
Minnesota	537	494	400	464	- 6
Missouri	373	310	175	250	- 19
Montana	165	160	83	122	- 24
Nebraska	1,550	1,581	1,438	1,525	- 4
New Mexico	188	226	230	232	+ 3
North Dakota	52	47	28	49	+ 4
Ohio	320	300	162	280	- 7
Oklahoma	253	272	312	292	+ 7
Oregon	82	69	60	77	+ 12
Pennsylvania	91	87	53	86	- 1
South Dakota	363	378	305	381	+ 1
Texas	1,781	2,245	2,323	2,205	- 2
Washington	168	180	140	160	- 11
Wisconsin	144	143	113	136	- 5
23 States	13,330	13,861	12,054	13,062	- 6
Alabama	34	37		38	+ 3
Arkansas	17	18		19	+ 6
Florida	57	58		55	- 5
Georgia	62	65		63	- 3
Hawaii	15	15		16	+ 7
Kentucky	44	38		39	+ 3
Louisiana	8	12		10	- 17
Maryland	20	21		23	+ 10
Mississippi	17	14		9	- 36
Nevada	49	50		51	+ 2
New Jersey	5	5		5	n. c.
New York	12	14		14	n. c.
North Carolina	47	45		48	+ 7
South Carolina	23	26		30	+ 15
Tennessee	27	14		11	- 21
Utah	55	53		58	+ 9
Virginia	37	39		31	- 21
West Virginia	10	11		12	+ 9
Wyoming	37	31		39	+ 26
Other states	6	5		4	- 20
United States	13,912	14,432		13,637	- 6

1/Cattle and calves on feed are animals being fattened for slaughter market on grain or other concentrates and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade good or better. 2/Data not available for periods blank.

Texas, the largest cattle feeding state with over 2 million on feed January 1, had 2 percent less cattle on feed than a year earlier. Iowa, the second ranking cattle feeding state, was down 11 percent. Only California of the big feeding states showed an increase from January 1 last year in the number of cattle and calves on feed.

Placements of cattle and calves on feed in the 23 major feeding states during the last quarter of 1973 were 15 percent fewer than the comparable quarter in 1972. Marketings of fed cattle for slaughter during October-December were down 4 percent from that quarter the previous year. Cattle feeders in the 23 major feeding states intend to market 6½

million cattle during the first quarter of 1974, a decline of 1 percent from a year earlier.

FEWER SHEEP AND LAMBS ON FEED

Sheep and lambs on feed in Wisconsin on January 1, 1974 totaled a record low of 14,000. This was 1,000 less than a year earlier. Feeding of sheep and lambs for the slaughter market has been on the decline in Wisconsin for several years. Ten years ago there were 39,000 sheep and lambs on feed while the high of 124,000 was reached on January 1, 1932.

There were 2,660,000 sheep and lambs on feed January 1, 1974 in the 26 states where estimates are made. This was a decline of 7 percent from January 1, 1973. Sheep and lambs on feed in the seven major feeding states totaled 1,487,000 on January 1, down 4 percent from a year earlier. These seven states accounted for 56 percent of all sheep and lambs on feed in the 26 states.

Sheep and Lambs: Number on Feed 1/

State and region	January 1, 1972	January 1, 1973	January 1, 1974	Change from last year
	1,000 head			Percent
Arizona	91	110	96	- 13
California	102	115	142	+ 23
Colorado	500	520	510	- 2
Idaho	102	76	59	- 22
Illinois	55	45	42	- 7
Indiana	21	25	17	- 32
Iowa	179	165	110	- 33
Kansas	97	104	90	- 13
Michigan	46	51	40	- 22
Minnesota	109	115	95	- 17
Missouri	44	40	44	+ 10
Montana	100	120	84	- 30
Nebraska	162	170	145	- 15
Nevada	28	19	23	+ 21
New Mexico	32	51	52	+ 2
New York	13	13	12	- 8
North Dakota	100	110	110	n. c.
Ohio	108	104	91	- 12
Oklahoma	33	40	24	- 40
Oregon	99	89	110	+ 24
South Dakota	150	130	100	- 23
Texas	399	339	390	+ 15
Utah	85	85	60	- 29
Washington	25	23	15	- 35
Wisconsin	21	15	14	- 7
Wyoming	174	198	195	- 7
7 State Total 2/	1,589	1,543	1,487	- 4
26 State Total	2,875	2,872	2,660	- 7

1/Sheep and lambs on feed are animals being fattened for slaughter market on grain, other concentrates or succulent pastures and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade good or better. 2/Iowa, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Texas, Colorado, and California.

STEER PRICES LOWER IN DECEMBER

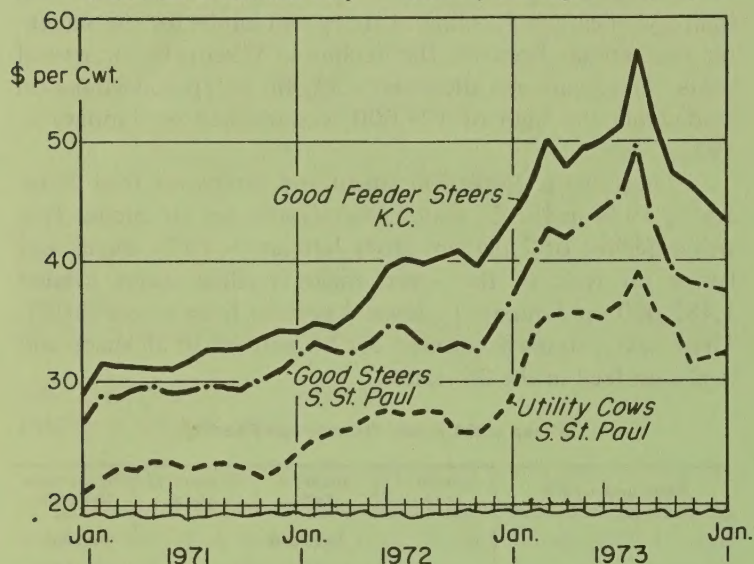
Prices of good grade fed steers at the St. Paul market and feeder steers at Kansas City declined from November to December. Good grade steers weighing between 900-1100 pounds averaged \$37.50 a hundredweight at St. Paul for December, down 63 cents from the previous month but \$3.00 higher than December 1972.

Good grade feeder steers weighing between 600-700 pounds averaged \$43.41 a hundredweight at Kansas City during December, a decline of \$3.07 from November but \$1.49 above a year earlier.

Utility cows at St. Paul increased in price from November to December. At \$32.14 a hundredweight, utility cows were up 64 cents from November and \$5.38 above December 1972.

BEEF CATTLE PRICES

S. St. Paul & Kansas City Monthly Averages 1971, 72, 73

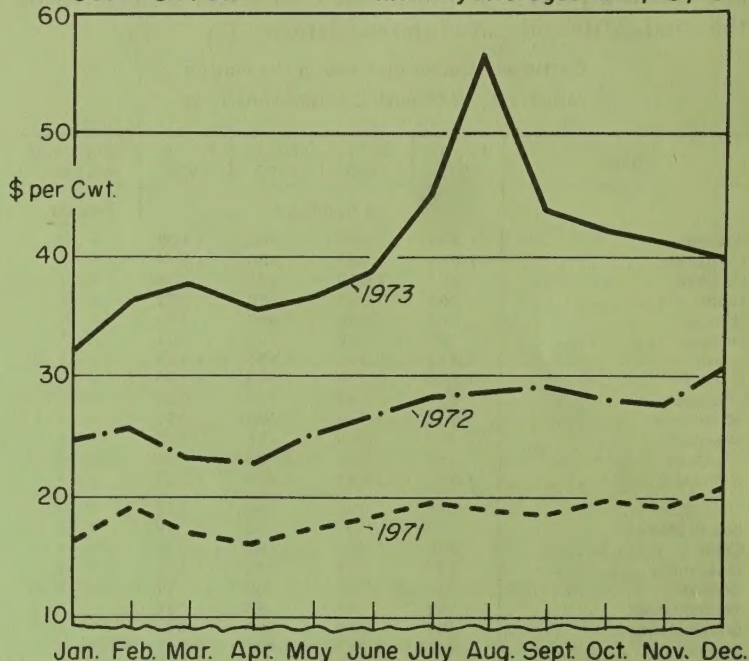


HOG MARKET AT ST. PAUL AVERAGES LOWER FOR DECEMBER

Prices of barrows and gilts at the St. Paul market averaged \$40.00 a hundredweight during December, down \$1.35 from November. Prices were lower in the first week of December but then showed a little strength for the rest of the month. The December average was more than \$9.00 above a year earlier.

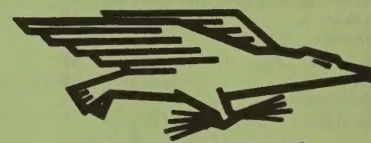
BARROW and GILT PRICES

South St. Paul Monthly Averages 1971, 72, 73



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